Transfer of computer technology

2729. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to transfer technology to the rural areas through computers;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to popularise the use of computers among the masses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (c) Government is attempting to ensure that computer technology, which is progressively becoming available, at falling prices, should be availed of to improve productivity in all secters of the national economy.

Studies are being conducted to find out how computers can be useful to the rural areas. A nation-wide network of computers is being installed which will terminate in micro-computers being set up at district headquarters. These eventually would assist the district authorities in planning and project monitoring and in collecting data necessary for state or central planning.

Department of Electronics and Ministry of Education are jointly conducting a Pilot Project, Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS) to familiarise students with computers and their possible applications. The Pilot Project is proposed to cover 750 schools by March, 1986. After its successful completion, it could be extended to schools in the rural areas.

The other steps include monitoring of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) information to check the proper implementation of the Project. This monitoring is over and above the regular monitoring of inputs and achievements. A scheme is also being worked out to computerise the land records in some "Pilot States" to improve the availability of land record statistics at the district level.

Ganga Action Plan

2730. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have finalised the operation of cleansing Ganga;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) the progress made so far in the process;

(d) by when the operation would be completed; and

(e) what would be the likely cost of the operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) An Action Plan for the Prevention of Pollution of river Ganga has been prepared.

(b) As per enclosed Statement.

(c) Work on schemes approved under the Action Plan has commenced in Haridwar and Rishikesh.

(d) Schemes approved under the Action plan in the first phase are expected to be completed within the 7th Five Year Plan period.

(e) The cost of the first phase has been tentatively estimated at about Rs. 250 crores.

Statement

Ganga Action Plan

The broad outlines of the scheme for the cleaning of the Ganga are the following.